adequate.number of transformers in the Athurvala Avistapith area (Dehradun) resulting in frequent power breakdowns and extreme voltage flunctions;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Tehri dam displaced people in this area are facing tremendous dfficulties.due to high voltage flutuations resulting in damage to electric appliances;

(c) whether Government propose to install adequate number of power transformers in the above area specifically near street No. 8 Athurvala area;

(d)if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a)The Athoorwala Visthapith Kshetra was established in 1979-80 and basic facilities including electric power was provided to the displaced persons of the Tehri Hydro-Electric Project who were settled here.

The activity of electricity supply for the area is the responsibility of the Uttaranchal State Power Corporation, which is expected to take necessary measures for smooth and uninterrupted power supply.

(b) According to the Government of Uttaranchal, the problems are due to fluctuations, in the area and the provisions need improvement with the passage of time.

. (c) to (e) According to the Government of Uttaranchal, the distribution licensee proposes improvements in power supply by installing adeqate number of transformers, LT sub-stations, 11 kv lines and LT lines scheduled upto March, 2004.

Guidelines of the CERC for power sector

875. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has recently announced guidelines and enabling procedures for open access in transmission in the power sector;

(b) if 50, the details thereof;

(c) whether the distribution companies and trading companies would be benefited by the guidelines of the CERC; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SH'RIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has issued an order on open access in the inter-State transmission on 14.11.2003. The CERC has also issued the draft regulation on terms and condition of open access interstate transmission on 3.12.2003 for suggestions and comments from the interested parties. The CERC draft regulation provides that all transmission service providers in the country including POWERGRID shall provide non-discriminatory open access for inter-State transmission to any distribution company, trader, generating company, captive plant or any permitted consumer with immediate effect. Apart from creating new options for distribution companies and bulk customers for buying power, this will facilitate completion in the power generation industry. The salient features of the order are at Statement.

Statement

Salient Features of CERC's order on open access in inter-state transmission

* Existing Regional Postage Stamp pricing method is to be applied.
* Discoms, Traders, IPPS, captive Plants can immediately^avail inter-State open access.
* Two categories of open access customers-short term and long term.
* Nodal Agency for short term customers will be the RLDC within which the point of drawal is located.
* CTU will be the nodal agency for long term customers.
* Minimum 5 years commitment required for becoming long term customer.
* Long term customers to be treated at par with original beneficiaries of the CTU network.
* Short term customers will be curtailed first in case of transmission constraint.

* Mismatches in the energy drawals by the open access customers to be billed as per the existing frequency linked unscheduled interchange charges under Availability Based Tariff (ABT)

* CERC recommends adoption of ABT at the State level.

Mega power policy

876. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to announce the new tariff regulations and trading policy for the power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when, these are expected to be made operational;

(d) whether Government also propose to carry out a comprehensive change in the mega power policy; and

(e) if so, the details of the proposed amendments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) Section 3(1) of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides *inter alia* that the Central Government shall prepare the National Electricity Policy and tariff policy in consultation with the State Governments and the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). Views of the State Governments have been solicited on formulation of these policies. A preliminary discussion paper on tariff policy was prepared with the assistance of CEA and Credit Rating Information Services of India Ltd. (CRISIL.) and circulated to all the State Governments for their comments and suggestions.

Since the Policies are of vital importance for the smooth development of the power sector, the Government of India has constituted a Task Force on Power Sector Investments and Reforms under the chairmanship of Shri N.K. Singh, Member (Energy), Planning Commission, with the terms of reference *inter alia,* to recommend an Electricity Tariff Policy and also to evolve and recommend a National Electricity Policy.

The State Governments have been requested to give their views on the terms of reference of the Task Force. The Task Force also held a meeting with Energy/Power Secretaries of States on 4th December, 2003. Meetings have also been held with other stakeholders. The Task Force is deliberating on the issues involved.